

In the Claims

Prior to examination, please cancel original claims 1-14 without prejudice and add new claims 15-28 as shown on the attached sheets.

In the Claims

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (New) Housing structure which has a frame structure on which there are arranged via connecting elements several optical elements which are held in mounts or structural modules, wherein the optical elements are detachably connected to the frame structure with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements in such a way that in the installed state they are integrated as bearing units in the frame structure, wherein the frame structure and the mounts or structural modules with their connecting elements have at least approximately the same coefficient of thermal expansion.

16. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein the optical elements are supported on mounts in the form of base elements.

17. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein the mounts or structural modules are provided with setting members.

18. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 3, wherein actuators are provided as setting members between the optical elements and their mounts or structural modules.

19. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 3, wherein the optical elements can be adjusted in six degrees of freedom by the setting members.

20. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 2, wherein adapting elements are arranged between the base elements and the frame structure.

21. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein the mounts or structural modules are connected rigidly to the frame structure in six degrees of freedom via their connecting elements.

22. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 7, wherein at least some of the force directions of the six degrees of freedom are located in a plate plane or strut plane of the frame structure.

23. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein gravity compensators are arranged between the optical elements and the mounts or the structural modules.

24. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein the frame structure, the mounts or structural modules and the connecting elements consist of materials with a low coefficient of thermal expansion such as Zerodur or Kyocera for example.

25. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 1, configured as an objective housing for a projection objective in microlithography.

26. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 11, wherein the objective housing is provided for EUV lithography.

27. (New) Housing structure according to Claim 12, wherein mirrors are provided in the objective housing as optical elements.

28. (New) Housing structure which has a frame structure on which there are arranged via connecting elements several optical elements which are held in mounts or structural modules, wherein the optical elements are detachably connected to the frame structure with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements in such a way that in the installed state they are integrated as stiffness contriburing units in the frame structure.